

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER
65TH AIR BASE WING (USAFE)**

LAJES FIELD INSTRUCTION 48-106

18 JANUARY 2012

Aerospace Medicine

FETAL PROTECTION PROGRAM



COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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(Colonel William D. Parker)

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This publication is a companion document to Air Force Instruction (AFI) 48-101, *Aerospace Medicine Enterprise*, AFI 36-2905, *Fitness Program*, AFI 44-102, *Medical Care Management* and AFI 48-123, *Medical Examinations and Standards*. It provides guidance for managing pregnant employees at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal and outlines responsibilities for protecting the mother and fetus from workplace hazards. Members of other services stationed at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal (e.g. Army and Navy) must comply with this instruction, with the exceptions of paragraph 2.6. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) using the AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route AF Form 847s from the field through the Lajes Field publications/forms manager. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with Air Force Records Information Management System (AFRIMS) Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) located at <https://www.my.af.mil/gcss-af61a/afrims/afrims/>. This instruction requires collecting and maintaining information protected by the Privacy Act of 1974, authorized by 10 U.S.C. 8013 and E.O. 9397.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This publication has been substantially revised and must be completely reviewed. Added general information section and responsibility sections for the Commander, 65 ABW, Commander, 65 MDOG and 65 MDOS/SGOK, Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. This version clarifies,

updates and streamlines previous guidance and brings it into compliance with AFI 33-360, *Publication and Forms Management*.

1. Responsibilities:

1.1. 65th Air Base Wing Commander will:

1.1.1. Ensure a written Fetal Protection Program is established to eliminate or minimize potential exposure of pregnant employees and their fetuses to chemical, biological, radiological and physical hazards in the workplace.

1.1.2. Ensure the active duty military member's assignment is immediately curtailed if local medical personnel are not capable of managing the complications of pregnancy.

1.2. 65th Medical Group Commander will:

1.2.1. Implement this instruction and ensure compliance of personnel under his/her authority.

1.3. Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP) will:

1.3.1. Verify pregnancy of all active duty members and, when requested, for United States civilian employees.

1.3.2. Make a duty recommendation (via Force Health Management section of Public Health) to the employee and her supervisor.

1.4. Bioenvironmental Engineering (BE) will:

1.4.1. Evaluate workplace risks in conjunction with Public Health and a Flight Surgeon.

1.4.2. Perform a process-based evaluation to identify specific hazards applicable to pregnancy evaluations such as, but not limited to, chemical, ionizing radiation, hazardous noise, non-ionizing radiation, heat stress and ergonomic hazards. Inform provider of identified hazards in the workplace.

1.4.3. Advise the employee of any identified risks and report the risks with any recommended techniques for avoiding the risks to the patient and supervisor.

1.5. Public Health (PH) Element will:

1.5.1. Interview all identified pregnant active duty members and civilian personnel who are enrolled in TRICARE Europe and work on base. Consult with BE and WHNP on potential occupational and environmental health threats.

1.5.2. Identify pregnant workers' specific duties, workplace hazards and concerns through conversations with patient, patient's supervisor and/or workplace site visit.

1.5.3. Provide educational materials on general hazards to pregnant women and their fetuses and information on any specific hazards that exist in the involved workplace.

1.5.4. Provide information on the wear of Chemical Warfare Defense Ensemble (CWDE) during pregnancy.

1.5.5. Prepare an Air Force Form 469, *Duty Limiting Conditions Report*, specific to the individual's workplace, duties, and exposures.

1.6. Unit Commander will:

1.6.1. Ensure female workers understand the necessity of reporting suspected and/or confirmed pregnancy to their supervisor immediately, confirming pregnancy at the earliest possible time, and notifying supervisor upon confirmation

1.6.2. Ensure active duty employees make an immediate appointment at the health care facility and permit civilian employees to see their health care provider immediately to confirm a suspected pregnancy.

1.6.3. Not remove employees from normal duties without a medical recommendation in the form of an AF Form 469.

1.6.4. Provide PH a description of the pregnant worker's specific duties and environmental work conditions.

1.6.5. Refer Air Force employed civilians with confirmed pregnancy to PH.

1.7. Active Duty Military will:

1.7.1. Immediately notify supervisor of suspected pregnancy.

1.7.2. Immediately seek a medical appointment for confirmation of suspected pregnancy.

1.7.3. Immediately notify supervisor of confirmed pregnancy.

1.7.4. Provide PH a complete description of specific duties and work conditions.

1.7.5. Comply with medical recommendations noted on the completed AF Form 469.

1.7.6. Comply with medical instructions regarding prenatal visits and care.

1.7.7. Notify PH of any change in pregnancy status.

2. Civilian Employees, Dependents, Beneficiaries should:

2.1. Immediately seek a medical appointment for confirmation of suspected pregnancy and follow conditions as stated in section 1.7.

JOSE A. RIVERA, Col, USAF
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

AFI 36-2905, *Fitness Program*, 1 July 2010

AFI 48-101, *Aerospace Medicine Enterprise*, 19 October 2011

AFI 44-102, *Medical Care Management*, 01 May 2006

AFI 48-123, *Medical Examinations and Standards*, 24 September 2009

AFI 48-145, *Occupational Health Program*, 05 March 2008

AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, 1 March 2008

Prescribed and Adopted Forms.**Prescribed Forms:**

No forms prescribed

Adopted Forms:

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publications*, 22 September 2009

AF Form 469, *Duty Limiting Conditions Report*, 25 October 2007

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFI—Air Force Instruction

AFMAN—Air Force Manual

BE—Bioenvironmental Engineering

CWDE—Chemical Warfare Defense Ensemble

PCM—Primary Care Manager

PH—Public Health